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TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO, GM
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: UN BURMA U.S.-FRANCE IRAN GERMANY-CHINA
U.S.-GERMANY CHILE-PERU DOLLAR;BERLIN

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A. Lead Stories Summary

The media focus this morning on Chancellor Merkel's meeting with the Dalai Lama in Berlin, the debate between the coalition parties on the right's proposed anti-terror measures, and the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York. Editorials focused on the Dalai Lama visit, the new SPD platform, and the beginning of the UN General Assembly. ZDF-TV's early evening newscast heute and ARD-TV's early evening newscast Tagesschau opened with reports on Chancellor Merkel's meeting with the Dalai Lama.

B. (UN) General Assembly

"The New UN Feeling"

Sueddeutsche Zeitung (9/22) writes that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is recognizing a new priority for diplomacy and argues that the United States, after the exhausting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is intensifying efforts to find compromises. In the viewpoint of the daily, Ban also finds new hope in the debate over climate protection, "which has now arrived at the top floor" in New York. The daily comments: "The large majority of poor nations, which have always insinuated that the North has neo-colonial intentions, can now watch a new trend: the wealthy nations are gradually accepting that they must blame themselves for the development [of the climate]." The daily judges that a change of mind is also taking place in Washington, "even though the climate meeting next week attempts to prevent the adoption of binding carbon dioxide limits." The paper concludes that "this offers a new opportunity to strengthen [the UN's significance], but the chances that the UN talks the issue of climate protection to death is unfortunately as great as it happened to debates over previous issues."

"Peace For Oil"

According to die tageszeitung, the governments in Washington and London waged war in Iraq against the declared will of the majority in the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council - as a result, all warnings of the disastrous consequences of a war have not only been confirmed, but even exceeded realities in Iraq. "If Iraq's Premier al-Maliki now 'guarantees security' to a future UN mission, then this sounds like a bad joke," the paper notes, and concludes: "As long as the U.S and British forces continue to occupy the country, political reconciliation efforts by the UN have

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no chance. U.S and British efforts to give the UN a stronger role in Iraq only hide the intention to put the blame on the UN for the disaster that these two countries created."

"Flowery Speeches At The UN"

In the opinion of Die Welt and Berliner Morgenpost, states' interests have more influence on the UN than multi-polarity or international law. The papers cite Iran's President Ahmadinejad as an example, whose speech at the UNGA is more an attempt to present his policy to the masses and to impress his people at home. "And Germany, together with Russia and China, will oppose tougher sanctions on Iran, because it does not want to accept looming losses

as Tehran's largest European trading partner," Die Welt notes.

C. (Burma) Monk Protests

"Hopes On Naked Feet"

According to Sueddeutsche Zeitung, the prayers of the young monks could bring the Burmese junta to its knees, but not immediately and not without international assistance. The daily notes that these monks reflect the dilemma of the junta: if the generals crush the monks' protests, a mass revolt is looming. If the junta allows the demonstrators to do what they want, the probability of a revolt is not smaller." There is no way out for the regime but to enter into talks, the daily concludes, and adds that China will have to play a decisive role. "What would happen if the generals crush the revolt in the end? Could China really afford to protect Burma's junta shortly before the 2008 Olympics?"

"Help From the Outside"

Financial Times Deutschland editorializes that the courageous rebellion of the monks and other opposition forces offer the international community of nations a reason to support domestic resistance through international pressure to make clear to the general in Rangoon that their time in power has expired. The paper concludes that the "alternative would be the continued oppression of the people in Myanmar and possibly some time in the future, a civil war. And this would be the worst of all solutions."

D. (U.S.-France) American-French Relations

Under the headline, "The American," Frankfurter Allgemeine carried an editorial on French President Sarkozy and the shift in U.S.-French relations saying: "After Chirac's skepticism of America, which originated in Gaullist national pride and adolescent pacifism,

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Sarkozy's unlimited admiration of America is indeed a clean break." The paper noted that Sarkozy's foreign policy on Iraq, Iran, Israel, and Sudan is distinctly closer to the U.S. than that of his predecessor. S|ddeutsche comments: "On both sides of the Atlantic, historically-minded observers note that the friendship between the U.S. and France has been existing since American Independence.... The disgruntlement of recent years has been serious, but measured in historic terms, it was just an episode."

E. (Iran) Pres. Ahmadinejad in U.S./German Business Interests

German broadcast media and Spiegel-Online report that "Ahmadinejad is playing the role of a peace dove" during his visit to the United States, presenting himself as an "innocent little angel... who is not interested in nuclear weapons." Frankfurter Allgemeine carried an editorial saying that "the U.S. administration is using its financial power to an unprecedented extent to exert pressure on German businesses in order to achieve its political goals in Iran.... If it was not about Iran, it would be easier to object to the current American government's policy and prevent it from further overstepping the mark. Many are pussyfooting; the German government is quiet, and banks believed they were left in the lurch. Nobody wants to be under suspicion of sympathizing with the Iranian regime. But this is about much more: that individual states claim the right to undermine international law with national actions, and that this damages other countries." Neue Osnabr|cker Zeitung opined that "a military solution for the nuclear dispute has been considered far too early. Such a saber-rattling diverts attention from the necessity to quickly pull out all political and economic stops."

F. (Germany-China) Chancellor Merkel Meets Dalai Lama

All German media focus on the first "private" meeting in the Chancellery between a German chancellor and the Dalai Lama, and the tensions it caused in German-Chinese relations. FAZ commented: "It is good that Mrs. Merkel met the Dalai Lama in the Chancellery, expressly for a private meeting with a religious leader. That does not pose any threat to China's unity." S|ddeutsche opined: "Merkel is right but this causes much damage. The meeting will not lead to much pensiveness in China. The political caste feels insulted and Germany's influence is diminishing." Die Welt remarked that Beijing's reaction shows that "China's rule over Tibet is unstable. Fear of uncontrollable developments leads to cynical defensiveness."

(Source: Berliner Zeitung: "The janitor assured me that the windows in the Chancellery are fire-proof.")

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G. (U.S.-Germany) Rendition

"Kow-Tow To The CIA"

Sueddeutsche Zeitung writes that the German government has kow-towed to the U.S. government by not passing on the arrest warrants for the "dirty dozen alleged U.S. agents, who kidnapped German Lebanese Khaled el-Masri in 2003." The paper argues that "in a democratic state, there cannot be special rules for agents who have gone wild. Germany is not the backyard of the United States." The daily concludes: "It is really surprising that those people who usually advocate a strong state, are suddenly as soft as wax" at a time when the strength of state is called for.

H. (Chile-Peru) Fujimori Extradited

"Fair Punishment For A Phantom"

Sueddeutsche Zeitung notes that it is the first time that a former state leader was forcibly turned over to his home country to be put on trial. The daily is of the opinion that the development shows "refugees all over the world that third countries are no longer a safe heaven." In Peru, the Fujimori case is an endurance test. "The trial will reopen old trenches, but Peru must pass this test," the paper judges.

I. (Economic) Dollar Weakness

Financial Times Deutschland notes that it is no longer easy to make money in the United States, and "the danger of a global economic crisis is great." The daily notes that current events in the United States "indicate a radical breach in global economic development." The U.S. economy is heading for a weak phase, if not a recession, and in this situation the Federal Reserve may lower interest rates but it is uncertain whether it will prevent a recession. In addition, the crisis at the U.S. mortgage market also destroyed confidence in the U.S. as a financial site, and confidence suffered already by "unscrupulously using finance and monetary policy for geo-strategic purpose. "But the largest risk for the greenback is the enormous dollar reserves in Asian threshold countries and oil producing countries in the Arab region," the paper notes, "because these stockpiles are dramatically losing their value." The daily concludes that this situation requires a "clear signal from the finance minister and central bank chiefs' meeting at the end of October. If this meeting produces agreement on a clear message to the markets, then the decline [of the dollar] could at least slow down."

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